



THE SUBALTERN AND FEMINIST VOICES IN INDIRA GOSWAMI'S SHORT STORY "SANSKAAR"

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ABSTRACT

The events in "Sanskaar" by Indira Goswami take place in Pitambor's rural environment, creating a tapestry of hardships, disputes, and unexpected salvation. This journal explores the complexities of caste, gender, and cultural standards in an effort to dig into the subaltern and feminist aspects present in the story. While Pitambor struggles with his personal issues, the narrative reveals Damayanti's strength as a widow defying social norms. This diary seeks to highlight the feminist undertones that influence the characters' fates and unearth the subaltern voices inside the story through a close examination of their interactions.

KEYWORDS: Sanskaar, Subaltern Voices, Feminist Perspectives, Caste Dynamics, Gender Norms

INTRODUCTION

"Sanskkaar" by Indira Goswami deftly crafts a story set against a backdrop of rural India, using Pitambor's life as a canvas on which the complexities of social standards are reflected. In order to provide light on the characters' fights against oppressive structures, this journal seeks to analyse the feminist and subaltern voices woven throughout the narrative. Through following Pitambor's path and his encounters with Damayanti, we peel back the layers of gender, caste, and cultural norms that mould their lives.

VOICES OF THE SUBALTERN

The term "subaltern" designates people or groups who are marginalised and oppressed by prevailing social institutions. In "Sanskkaar," Pitambor struggles with social pressures and his own inner issues despite being a well-respected character. Through an examination of his conversations with Damayanti, a widow who defies Brahminical conventions, we hope to draw attention to the narrative's subaltern voices. By rejecting convention and making unorthodox decisions, Damayanti establishes herself as a subaltern character and provides a counternarrative to the established power structures.

FEMINIST VIEWPOINTS

Damayanti's role in "Sanskkaar" makes the feminist undertones clear. Her disdain for widowhood conventions subverts the patriarchal constraints placed on women in rural communities. Damayanti questions the expectations and roles that are expected of women by questioning them through her behaviour. This diary entry will explore Damayanti's agency, her influence on Pitambor's life, and the character's larger significance in the context of feminist debate.

INTERSECTIONALITY:

Determining how caste, gender, and class intersect in "Sanskkaar" deepens the analysis. Pitambor's standing as a Brahmin merchant and widow is contrasted with Damayanti's

casteneutral status. The power dynamics at work are shaped by the intersectionality of their identities. This section illuminates the complex interaction of various societal forces by examining how these intersecting elements affect the individuals' difficulties and the story as a whole.

CONCLUSION

"Sanskkaar" presents a diverse range of subaltern and feminist perspectives that challenge conventional conventions and highlight the tenacity of characters against repressive structures. This publication seeks to understand the complexity of caste and gender relations in rural India via the stories of Pitambor and Damayanti. As we dive deeper into the story, we discover that the challenges and conflicts contain the opportunity for redemption and development, ultimately providing a complex reflection of the human spirit.

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